

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-11, drawn to methods for detecting SNPs utilizing particularly designed primers;

Group II, claim 12, drawn to a primer set; and

Group III, claims 13-24, drawn to methods for detecting SNPs utilizing particular polymerase reaction conditions.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-11.** Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of Group III should be examined together with the invention of elected Group I because examination of both Groups I and III at the same time will not be an undue burden on the Examiner. In this regard, Applicants note that Groups I and III are similarly although not identically classified but a reasonably complete search of the elected invention will result in a search that is coextensive with both Groups I and III.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **DEC 23 2005**

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Marc S. Weiner  
Registration No.: 32,181  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant